

(No. 1187)

DIRECTIONS

FOR

PERFORMING THE METALLIC OPERATION

WITH

PERKINS'S PATENT TRACTORS.

THE Method, *generally* practised, in removing Pains, Inflammations, &c. (though it is sometimes necessary to vary it, as the Circumstances of the Case require) is by drawing the Points of the Tractors over the Parts affected, and continuing them along on the Skin to a considerable Distance from the Complaint, usually towards the Extremities.

Thus, if the Pain is in the Shoulder or Elbow, operate over those Parts, and extend the Tractors along on the Skin, to the Hands; if in the Hip or Knee, from those Places to the Foot. As Pains, before they are entirely removed from the Body, often follow the Course of the Operation, when the Side, Back, &c. are the Seats of the Disease, conduct the Tractors in any Direction, which does not lead to the more vital and susceptible Parts of the Body. Pains in the Breast are removed by operating on the Breast, or on the Back, opposite the Part affected. In removing Pains from the Head, the Hair should previously be separated by a Comb, and the Tractors drawn upon the Skin, from the Forehead to the Back of the Head, and down the Neck.—Sometimes it may be removed, by operating only on the Forehead, Back of the Neck, or Pit of the Stomach. In the Head-ach, which arises from drinking to excess, they do not always succeed. For the removal of Pains in the Teeth, the Operation should be performed both externally and internally, *viz.* on the Cheek, and on the Gums and Teeth.—Pains in the Face, or Teeth, incident to Women in a State of Pregnancy, have, however, not always been relieved.

On all Parts to which any oily, adipose, or greasy Substances have been recently applied, the Tractors will produce no salutary Effects. If the Patient, or the Hand of the Operator, is moistened with a profuse Perspiration, the Metallic Operations are not generally attended with Success, and Pains have very seldom been removed from the Head, if Pomatum, or any other greasy Matter has been used on the Hair. It becomes therefore necessary, that all Parts destined for the Operation, on which any of those Substances remain, should be thoroughly cleansed. In external Inflammations, the Tractors should not be drawn over the tender Parts, unless very lightly: rather, let the Operation be confined to the Edges of such Affections. In Cases where the Disease is seated in the Limbs, which are perfectly easy and free from Pain when the Part is at rest, but on Motion, are attended with a Pain and Soreness, the Tractors are not always successful. Pains after an injudicious Use of Mercury, and those which are the Effects of a Venereal, where no Mercury has been used, are not generally cured by the Metallic Operation. It is unsafe to operate on the Back during the Existence of the Catamenia. In Epileptic Fits the Tractors should be applied as soon as possible, particularly to that Part of the Body where the Patient perceived the first Symptoms or Attack of the Fit. In all Cases, when performing the Operations, the Tractors should be used alternately, changing them in the Course of two or three Minutes.

As it is a well ascertained Fact, that the Tractors have, in a few Instances, operated more effectually in the Hands of some Persons than in those of others; if Relief is not obtained in the usual Time, let them be placed in the Hands of other Persons, and used as before. The Effects of the Metallic Operation are usually perceived in the Course of about Twelve Minutes; but in obstinate and fixed Pains of long standing, it is often necessary to continue the Operation a longer Time. Pains in such Cases not uncommonly return in some Degree. It is therefore requisite that the Tractors be frequently applied. By continuing the Operations daily, many Complaints which have for Years baffled the Efforts of Medicine, have been perfectly cured—Gouts, and some obstinate Rheumatisms, are of this Description.

The Cases in which this Operation is most Effectual, are CHRONIC RHEUMATISMS; many GOUTS; PLEURISIES; VIOLENT SPASMODIC CONVULSIONS, as EPILEPTIC FITS and the LOCKED JAW; RICKETS, if the Operation is performed in the early Stage of the Complaint; the VIOLENT PAINS and INFLAMMATIONS attending SPRAINS and CONTUSIONS; the PAINS and other Attendants on the FLOUR ALBUS; INFLAMMATIONS in the EYES, attended with PAIN; the PAINFUL EFFECTS of a BURN or SCALD; PAINFUL INFLAMMATORY TUMORS, as QUINSEY, BOILS, and WHITLOWS, if applied before a SUPPURATION has taken place; (the Operation afterwards is a Palliative) CUTICULAR INFLAMMATIONS, as ERYSIPELAS, TETTERS, &c.; PAINS in the HEAD, FACE, TEETH, EARS, BREAST, SIDE, BACK, LIMBS; and indeed most VIOLENT TOPICAL PAINS, with or without INFLAMMATIONS, unless their Seat is on some diseased internal Organ, too remote from the external Surface of the Body.

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It is not pretended that the Metallic Operation is a *Specific* in all the Complaints above enumerated. Many instances must occur in obstinate Diseases of long Duration, which will baffle Medical as well as all Human Assistance; and so numerous are the Diseases of the Human Body which assume similar Symptoms, yet at the same Time arise from very different Causes, that a reasonable Person will not be surprized, if in an extensive Practice he should meet with some Cases in which the Metallic Operation may fail in giving the Relief expected.

N. B. Every genuine Set of these Instruments is stamped with the words, "PERKINS PATENT TRACTORS," accompanied with the above Directions, and a Receipt signed by the *Patentee*.

No. 18, Leicester Square, London.

August 22nd

1799

RECEIVED of Robert Brady £5.50 Five Pounds
Five Shillings, for a Set of my Patent Tractors, accompanying the above
Directions (No. 1187).

Benjamin Douglas Perkins

WITNESS,